The Middle School Good Times

October 1979

1.6#1 Paw Paw Middle School, Paw Paw, Michigan ~~10¢~~ 15¢

Basketball season is under way for the 7th and 8th grade girls. We wish the best of all seasons. After last year's 7th grade suceess, it'll be tough to be much better. Good luck, girls.

STUDENT COUNCIL SOON

Report cards come out next week- something to look forward to? With them come the grades that will determine eligibility for student council elections. Students will need to gather support for their candidacy by having people sign petitions. The week of October 15 is scheduled for campaigning. The election itself will be held October 25.

Students with grades of B or better may run for any of the offices: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, or ambassador. The ambassador is chosen to communicate the student council's ideas to the principal.

PRESENTING MR DRURY

We have a new principal this year. Mr. Drury comes to us from a job as assistant principal in a Wisconsin school. He explains that he wanted to be principal because he enjoys middle school kids.

Mr. Drury has been married for six years and has one child, John. He is 31, his hobbies include tennis and reading.

e.t.

TIME FOR TENNIS

The tennis team of 7th and 8th grade is off and going this fallwith eighteen girls. We practice from 2:30 until 3:15 every day, weather permitting. Our coach this year is Mr. Crook. He has been very patient with us. That's hard to do because we don't have much concentration. Then, let's face it, there are moments when the freshman football team is more interesting than a fuzzy yellow ball!

d. haefner

fall haiku

The leaves on trees change color
And gracefully whirl around
The first sign of fall.

r.howe

NEW FACULTY

Several teachers are new to the middle school this fall. Mr. Crook who taught the last two months for Mrs. Mahanty is back teaching English and math. He is taking Mrs. Smith's place while she is on maternity leave. Ms. Weiss is the new 8th grade science teacher. She replaces Mr. Barnes who is teaching in the high school. Mr. Stenner who taught two sixth grade classes last year is teaching 8th grade English and 6th grade, too. Mr. Suhusky is the new band director replacing Mr. D'Arcangelis.

Our reporters interviewed these new people. Mr. Crook, it was discoverdd, is from Paw Paw and graduated from Paw Paw High in 1973. He is unmarried and his birthday was September 8. He enjoys water skiing, tennis and other outdoor sports. He says he "really enjoys teaching. The kids are pretty good, especially third hour."

Ms. Weiss attended Western Michigan for her bachelor's degree and is working

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Another year has begun. With a new start there are always new possibilities. This year we resolve to stay on top of our homework. This year we're going to make an effort to get more involved with some after-school activity. This year maybe we'll be elected to student council. This year we may have more dances. The hopes are high, the expectations are great- what will the results be?

Already with the first six weeks behind us, we note that we have still missed an assignment or two, we have forgotten to attend a practice or never got around to getting a physical-(boys,there's still time) and we know what we should do with that time after school but gee, it's so nice outside and the dog really needs to chase our bicycle, and heck, the Tastee Freez is still open. It feels so much like summer. It's hard to get down to business when the only kind of getting down we're into on weekends would be dancing.

A new six weeks begins October 8. We have another shot at reforming, at doing what we really would like to do- live up to our own expectations, those hopeful summer ones.

your ideal?

If you could have the ideal room, what would it be? What would it contain? Or better yet, what does your room contain now? Seven shampoos, (four empty), 96 tubes of lipstick, one of them black? Or 22 perfumes, one called essence of tuna fish?

Boys, what do you love more than baseball , Loni Anderson, and your mother? Is the stuff you cherish and want to keep, the half-eaten sardine sandwich or the glass of milk from three months ago?

Guess it's about time we got into our closets, gave back the flute you found and start that junk collection over again.

dh & ah

The Good Times invites you to write in with your suggestions. We also invite your letters to the editor and letters to the advice columnist, Samantha. Drop off any mail, comments, complaints, letters, in room 103 or place them in Ms. Swanson's mail box in the office,(if you can reach it.)

Good Time for Advice

Dear Samantha,

I don't like the kids teasing resource room people. They call us names like"stupid" and say that we are in the "retard class". They push us around, take our combs, and throw salt in our hair.

Some of the kids think they are smart and tease us because we are resource room people. They should come and try it themselves. We would like 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to come in and do the work we have to do. They would see that the work is not easy. Remember, we have feelings like you.

8thR.R.

Dear R.R.,

I don't think it's right for anyone to tease you either. As a matter of fact, I don't think it's right for anyone to tease anybody. For all you people reading this, the resource room is not for "retards", but it is just a place where these people go to get extra help to keep up with their school work. I agree, you have feelings just like everyone else. So, remember every one, give them a chance. It could very well be worth your while.

Dear Samantha,

I am 13 and don't have many friends. I want to have them. But I just don't know how to make them. Most of all, with girls ! Can you help me? P.S. I hope this isn't too heavy for you.

Mr. Friendless

Dear Mr.,

Making friends is not an easy thing to do. That much anyone can tell you. A good way to get more friends would be to smile and talk to a new person each day. Soon you'll know many more people. You say you want more friends, especially girls, well, the same thing goes. Just be yourself and try not to be nervous. Soon you'll have, if not loads of friends, at least a few more good ones. Hope I've helped you.

Sam

teachers --

on her master's at Michigan State.

When she was in middle school, her favorite classes were social studies and English. She later told this reporter that it was because she had crushes on her teachers. Hmmm.

Her sign is Taurus and she isn't married. She loves to jog and does every morning...six to fifteen miles. Ugh! She likes all sports, especially skiing and sailing. She also likes to study nutrition.

Mr. Suhusky was born in Plainwell, Michigan, June 11, 1957. He went to school at Western Michigan. He came to Paw Paw because he liked the area and wanted to teach junior high.

Mr. Suhusky says "I got so much out of band I wanted to teach others." He very much likes his job.

He lives in Kalamazoo and while he is not married, he is engaged to be married. He has no pets. His hobbies include collecting record albums and he likes to bowl and golf.

Mr. Stenner has been around the middle school for the last three years in one way or the other. Last year he substituted and then taught the two sixth grade classes the last few months of the year. The year before he was working as an aide for the resource room. The year prior he did his student teaching with Mrs. Baker's 8th grade English classes. We're all glad to see him here again teaching full time.

Welcome to all the new people!

basketball bounces

If you were here last year, you'd remember the superb 7th grade basketball team. Well, now they're 8th graders and a lot stronger. Our 8th grade team has one big advantage over other 8th grade teams - height. The tallest girl on our team is Kim McDowell. Also, there are two girls who are 5'11", Lynn Stull and Tracy McNeil. The 8th grade team consists of Nancy Atwater, Laura Bare, Jami Bowman, Anna Charles, Stacy Crane, Laurie Dietz, Leann Fooy, Teresa Guimond, Ora Lee Gipson, Tammy Hiemstra, Paula Jones, Julie Kondor, Kim McDowell, Tracy McNeil, Lacy Owens, Michele Ranger, Pam Ritsema, and Lynn Stull.

The 7th grade team will get a chance to prove themselves with coach Jan Groenland. Let's support the newcomers to the middle school courts. The team consists of Deirdre Bergason, Shelly Blacksten, Anita Capone, Renee Counterman, Amy Curtis, Michele Dokey, Brandie Dunn, Tammy Frank, Renee Goens, Kelly Goodwin, Robin Haas, Julie Kemp, Amy Lossie, Paula Nash, Gina Rigozzi, Linda Rozenbergs, Michele Serbenski, Cathy Thayer, Alison Wilfong, and Carolyn Wilson.

You are all invited to the home games. Have a safe, victorious season.

a.h.

6th graders ease into p.p.m.s.

Fifth grade teachers scared us so much about how hard and confusing everything would be in the middle school. Teachers and my sister said there were hard-nosed teachers, more work than we could ever do, weird schedules, and a lot of rules. Since I've been here, it hasn't been like that. Maybe I'm lucky or the teachers made it especially easy for me.

We've grown so much. We have gone from throwing things and getting in fights to changing classes, getting detentions, and having a lot of responsibility.

One comment I have to make. School isn't hard or easy. It can be boring.

This is my first year in the middle school. It's really not as scary as I thought it would be. It's big and pretty tought, but once you get used to it, it's all right. Some of the teachers are pretty hard too, but I guess it's for our own good.

e.t.

Class Actions

Science and social studies are two busy classes so we decided to let you know what they are doing. Ms. Weiss's classes are working on geology, the study of rocks. Mr. Snell's classes are studying ancient people, the civilizations of the middle east. They will be doing projects involving the building of Egyptian pyramids.

Mr. Lutz's classes are doing biology while Mr. Edinger's rooms are studying contemporary issues in American history such as inflation, depression and their causes and effects. Next, they will return to colonial history to find out how we got where we are.

school

In every August school must start,
You and your vacation must part.

You get new clothes and new shoes
But along with them you get the blues.

Back to classes that are hard,
And the day of the report card.

Getting tardies and attention
Will soon earn you a detention.

In June the school year will end,
You say good byes to your best friend.

4-H FAIR FUN

The 4-H Fair in Hartford is both exciting and tiring. If you have had an exhibit at the Fair you know it takes months of work to do it right. If you have a 4-H Leader to help, it makes it a lot easier.

The non-animal exhibits are judged at the beginning of the Fair on Saturday and Monday. You are placed by A,B,C, ratings, according to the time and effort put into your project. The special projects receive merits which are awarded at the end of the initial judging. Each A, B, or C rating is eligible for a certain amount of money according to the project.

The animal exhibits are brought in on Monday. Many months of work are put into this project. The amount of work you put into this exhibit will show on your show day. It is hard waiting for your show day after months of work on your animal, but when that day comes you are excited. The excitement ends only after you walk out of that show ring. You will then know how that judge has placed you. It is a great experience if your animal has placed high, but if not, you will know how to improve him for next year's fair,

The 4-H Fair has a place for everyone if you want to get into the competition. 4-H clubs have so much to offer. They are a great experience for everyone.

jt

YUM YUM!

By now you have all had a chance to try the school lunch. You have waited in the nice, straight orderly lines, which take only seconds to get through, and been given a tray of absolutely delicious food....right?

Everybody complains about the lunch. Some people even do something about it. For example, mixing milk with the peas may improve the appearance if not the taste. Dumping the veggies into the trash container is certainly a remedy to otherwise boring meals. The mixture of the colors, running along the inside of the trash baggie, combines to make a delectable picture. For other people, dumping the entire tray provides another way of dealing with school lunch.

One suggestion has been made that we gather up all the unwanted lunches and ship them to the Vietnamese boat people. We'll leave them in trays and saran wrap them if they like.

Why are the lunches like this? Perhaps they think we're hungry, but that's not it. The real answer is they are trying to cut down on the population of Paw Paw.

kl an

The Good Times is published at the Kalamazoo Regional Enrichment Center. The staff meet on Wednesdays at 2:30 in Ms. Swanson's room, 103. For this issue----
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Join us.

ANIMAL TALES - true stories

I know a dog that is so dumb that... one day when I was going out to feed him he swallowed a bee, which naturally stung him and he whined.

I know a cat that is so dumb that... every time I'm done washing my hand the cat bites my fingers.

I know a gerbil that is so dumb... every time I look in his cage he hides.

I know a rabbit that is so dumb... he likes to jump out of his pen and hide under my cousin's car.

I know a poodle who is so dumb... whenever you cry she licks your face.

I know a goat that is so dumb... that one day he tried to eat his ears.

My dog is dumber than that. I wen out to fee my dog Reggie. After I fed him, I let him run. When I let him go, I went out to ride my bike. While riding, I saw my dog running in the woods by the side of our house. It was strange because he was kicking his hind legs and doing doughnuts in the sand. I couldn't figure out what he was doing. Just then I heard another dog howling across the street so I looked and there was our neighbor's female dog. I thought "aha- I see." I started down the street. The neighbor's dog followed me and my own dog was running and looking at the neighbor's dog at the same time. All of a sudden, bam! My dog hit a tree- right smack on his nose. He kind of shook his head and walked around bumping into trees and bushes so I put him back into his pen. Then I gave up on the bike riding.

by todd and scott

Is There Life after School?

This month our roving reporters asked all of you what you do with time after school. Here are the replies they got.

Marc Wilson "plays football, watches tv, plays golf and rides bikes." Kelli Fisk uses her spare time for" tv, practicing my cornet, riding into town, and doing homework. Ronda Wise "practices my cornet, rides bikes, and does homework." Erik Hindenach "does homework, rides bikes and finds time to practice the saxophone."

Rhonda Silcott fillher time "cheerleading, taking dance lessons, watching tv and reluctantly practicing the piano." Alyson Wilfong "plays with my dogs and goes jogging." Mindy Donovan" feeds my rabbits and then beats up on my brother who is chasing the dogs." Jennifer Triquet "goes riding horses ." Debbie Haefner says " I play tennis, watch tv, and talk on the phone." Paula Nash "goes down town and then to basketball." Kara Lucas also likes to "watch tv and talk on the phone."

Susan Campbell "does homework, cleans my room and then I go riding." Chris Bishop likes to " visit my friends, do home work, and play with the animals." Claudia Willsea " reads, watches tv, plays with the dog, and does homework."

Bonnie Ray enjoys " watching tv, plays the piano, cleans her room and swings." Penny Kelly spends her time "working at the library, playing piano, and watching tv." Sally Miller says her spare time is taken up "studying for tests." Tina Mortimore "does homework and clean her rooms."

Tammy Drier spends her time "watching tv and doing homework." David Lean uses his time to " eat dinner, watch tv, do homework and play outside." Lisa Sample's time is taken up with "doing homework, watching tv, eating dinner and doing the rest of the homework-maybe riding bikes."

Amy Albar ,after school, "practices my instrument, talks on the phone, goes swimming, eats and does homework along with watching tv." Mark Adams says he "watches tv, feeds the pets, dines, rides bikes and watches more tv."

Tracy McNeil "plays basketball, does algebra and watches tv." Mr. Lutz "exercises, watches Mash, does school work and does something with the fanily." Mr. Ruesink "does school work, eats dinner, does dishes, helps dependents, runs with his wife, hugs wife, and watches tv."

Mike McQuire "plays with people, does homework, goes to football practice, and watches tv." Rose Pierson "does homework, eats, exercises, and takes a shower." Bruce Hendrickenn "cleans boat, rides bikes, practices music, does homework, works on house and like the rest of us, watches tv." Bill Woodhams "has something to eat, visits friends, cleans room, eats dinner, and watches tv."

Eric Smith spends his time " eating playing with friends, milking cows, and doing homework."

The two things we all do are watch tv and do homework.

life continued...